From: Simmons, Denise
To: Shlomiya Lightfoot
Subject: Re: Hewlett Packard discussion
Date: Monday, April 23, 2018 8:21:50 PM

Dear Schlomiya Lightfoot,

Thank you for your thoughtful email. I must confess that this particular issue is not my area of expertise - I would not presume to know all the intricacies of Israeli politics and the daily goings-on there, nor am I sufficiently well-versed on the BDS movement. I am currently in the process of reading up on this from a variety of different sources, and this process will continue up until such time as this comes before the City Council.

I must also confess that I have yet to see a draft of the proposed resolution, if such a draft exists. I have met with people who have advocated for the HP boycott, I have met with those who are opposed to it, and I am in the process of reaching out to our congressional representatives to seek their opinions on this matter. As with any business before the Council, I am committed to keeping an open mind and learning as much as I can before I determine how I will vote. If this does ultimately come before the City Council, I will look forward to a robust discussion amongst my colleagues and I will do all that I can to ensure that people from all sides of this issue feel they have been given an opportunity to weigh in and be heard. Again, thank you for reaching out and sharing your thoughts on this important matter.

E. Denise Simmons

From: Shlomiya Lightfoot <shlomiya@mit.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 11:21 AM
To: Simmons, Denise
Subject: Hewlett Packard discussion

Dear Councilor Simmons,

I am writing regarding the issue up for discussion at an upcoming City Council meeting, about ceasing business with Hewlett Packard (HP) until the company ends its support of violence and enabling of human rights violations.

This issue is important to me because I care about human rights for all people, including immigrants, incarcerated individuals, and Palestinian people. It is further personally important because I am a religious Jew who cares about Palestinian human rights.

I know that you are receiving pressure against boycotting HP from groups suggesting that Israel is being singled out and that any move against Israel's human rights violations is anti-Semitic. Israel is not being singled out - it should uphold human rights and comply with international law like other countries. Unfortunately there are many human rights violations around the world, but that doesn't mean that pressuring Israel can only happen once all other problems have been resolved. Also,

boycott strategies involve selecting particular companies and advancing on incremental efforts to create larger change. Also, the move against HP is not only for Palestinian rights, but also because HP's technologies help the United States oppress immigrants and incarcerated individuals.

Some people are arguing that technologies, and companies developing and selling them, are values-neutral. I just completed my Ph.D. at MIT in Science, Technology, and Policy, and I explored these questions and found that technology can carry values, for good or for ill, for which its developers and producers often can and should be held accountable.

It can be hard to stand up to pressure, particularly smearing accusations, but please stand with justice on this question. Cambridge can be a leader in this area. As a long-time Cambridge resident I am proud of my city for considering this matter and I would be proud of my city and my councilmembers for moving on it to advance human rights here and abroad.

I would be very pleased to discuss this matter with you further if I can be at all helpful. I am on email and at 617-599-2904.

Thank you very much.

All the best,
Shlomiya Lightfoot

89 Webster Ave 2F, Cambridge, MA 02141
shlomiya@mit.edu
617-599-2904